

**COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**RIDGEFIELD PARK**  
**March 9, 2021**  
**7:30 PM**

Mayor Anlian announced that this meeting is being held in accordance with the “Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10 4-6 et seq.” notice of which was sent to the Record, and the Star Ledger on December 28, 2020 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and Village Website.

Due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Health Crisis, this meeting was held via Zoom call.

**ROLL CALL**

Those present were Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian in the chair.

Also, present: Philip Boggia, Village Attorney; Joseph Rella, Chief of Police; Edward Monroe, DPW Superintendent and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mayor Anlian.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Caucus Meeting and Closed Session Meeting of February 23, 2021.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson and Mayor Anlian voted “YEA”.  
Abstain: Commissioner Portorreal

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$4,913,853.64.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian voted “YEA”.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Gerken stated the Mid Bergen Health Commission is focusing on scheduling vaccines for senior citizens. He will be speaking with the Health Dept. on getting a list of residents.

Commissioner Olson stated the DPW is moving ahead with hiring 2 employees. Commissioner Olson met with the BCUA and Englewood DPW who are looking to obtain a Styrofoam densifier.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS**

Steve Quinn, resident, stated he would like to go on record that he supports the Commissioners approval of the Nature Preserve Bond Ordinance.

Tammy Laverty, resident, stated she is also in favor of the bond. She is proud that the town is holding onto an environmental piece of land. The schools will enjoy the nature preserve not just for pleasure but for educational purposes.

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Commissioner Gerken added the Nature Preserve will be a great addition to the Village.

Mayor Anlian stated the Nature Preserve was initially proposed in 1973. The Village received approximately \$300,000 in grant money. This is becoming a reality for future generations.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Anlian announces that the following business is considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. Any item may be removed for separate consideration.

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

- 2021-31 Request Planning Board Study Concerning Cannabis Establishments
- 2021-32 Authorize Tax Lien Redemption
- 2021-33 Authorize Street Closure for Block Party – Edwin Street

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal, that the consent agenda be approved.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian voted “YEA”.

### **ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING & ADOPTION**

- 2021-02 BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NATURE TRAIL IN, BY AND FOR THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$950,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

The clerk presented affidavit of publication, showing that advertisement had been made according to law, which was ordered filed. Commissioner Gerken moved a public hearing be held on the ordinance and was seconded by Commissioner Portorreal. So ordered. Commissioner Gerken read the ordinance by title on second reading. Commissioner Gerken then announced that all interested parties would now be given opportunity to be heard for or against the adoption of the ordinance.

Clerk O’Grady read an email received from Stephen Quinn, Chairman of the RP Environmental Commission:

“Dear Mayor Anlian and Village Commissioners,

I am writing to you all to lend my support for the Bond Ordinance to provide funding for the construction of a trail and boardwalk in the Ridgefield Park Nature Preserve. This trail and boardwalk will open up the full educational and recreational potential of our Nature Preserve for Village residents. The Nature Preserve, when provided with an access trail and boardwalk, will be a wonderful amenity for our town providing opportunities for nature study, Village sponsored environmental programs and school and scout activities for all. Please approve this bond ordinance for the future enrichment of our Village.”

Clerk O’Grady also advised similar emails were received from Gloria Rivera, Linda Quinn and Barbara DeLuca.

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Commissioner Gerken moved the ordinance be adopted on second reading and final passage, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Portorreal and adopted upon a call of the roll.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian voted “YEA”.

**PROCLAMATION**

The Board of Commissioners adopted a Proclamation congratulating Andy and Minnie Ranaudo on their 75<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal to adjourn.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, Portorreal and Mayor Anlian voted “YEA”.

Mayor Anlian adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

/s/William G. Gerken  
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill  
Commissioner

/s/Mark C. Olson  
Commissioner

/s/ Wanda C. Portorreal  
Commissioner

Tara O’Grady  
Village Clerk  
Approved on March 23, 2021

/s/ John H. Anlian  
Mayor